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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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03/28/2001

Carl Steven Baumann

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EXAMINER

MILEF, ELDA G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3692

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/13/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	09/819,462		BAUMANN ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Elda Milef		3692	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-9, 14-16 and 18 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 10-13, 17 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/15/2007 has been entered.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 10 is objected to because of the following informalities: The amended portion is unclear, specifically "services system when payment of an invoice is accepted by, on a scheduled basis, executing a bridge..." -see p. 4 line 6. Who is accepting the payment of an invoice? Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1, 13, 17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The Examiner could not find substantial support for the limitation "generating a goods receipt" as claimed and argued by the applicant. Specifically, the applicant refers to multiple definitions for generating a goods receipt, i.e., a transaction notification for an invoice and an automated goods received (move ticket).

Claims 10-12 are rejected because of their dependency to the rejected claims.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 6,507,826 Maners in view of *University of New Hampshire Financial and Administrative Procedures*, hereinafter, *Procedures*.

Re Claim 1: Maners discloses the invention substantially as claimed including in a method for approving and paying an invoice for commodities (Abstract), the steps of:

receiving a requisition from a requestor of commodities (Col. 2, lines 6-26);

marking said commodities upon said requisition as receivable commodities, receivable commodities including selected commodities that do not flow through a receiving dock (inherent to commodities deemed to require invoice authorization

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for payment; associated receiving ticket requires recipient confirmation). Maners discloses marking said commodity as "posted" status which indicates that the invoice has been processed by the MicroEDI server and determined valid and submitted to the company accounts payable system for payment processing. -see Fig. 4 and col. 6 lines 48-67. The system and method disclosed by Maners allows vendors to invoice a company for items such as products and services -see col. 5 lines 64-67; col. 8 lines 21-23, (services do not flow through a receiving dock as disclosed by the applicant on p.5 of the specification).

receiving said invoice for commodities from a vendor (Col. 6, lines 49-62);

matching said invoice to said purchase order and determining if said invoice relates to an item designated on said invoice as receivable(col. 5, lines 40-58; Col: 6, lines 6-67; col. 8, lines 21-29 and Figure 4 (Invoice number, order number, Refused status);

generating from said invoice a notification to an authorizer that includes information needed to pay the invoice and choices of authorizing or rejecting payment (Col. 8, line 63 to Col. 9, line 50;;

for commodities marked as receivable, executing a positive confirmation process (Col. 6, lines 6-65; Col. 7 line

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56 to Col. 8 line 6; Col. 8 line 63 to Col.9 line 52),

including:

responsive to authorization by said authorizer, creating an automated receipt transaction file and entering said transaction file into a payment system (Col. 9, lines 38-44)

within an enterprise resource planning system (Col. 3, line 59 to Col. 4, line 3 and Col. 6, line 21 to Col. 10, line 17); and

responsive to rejection by said requestor, creating an e-mail notification to accounts payable for returning said invoice to said vendor (Col. 6, lines 38-67; Col. 9, lines 44-52 and Col.8, lines 21-29);

for commodities marked as non-receivable, executing a negative confirmation process (Col. 5, lines 40-58).

Maners further discloses the use of buttons to select among alternatives (Figs. 4-9) and alternative selection between authorizing (approved) and rejecting (refused) invoices (Fig. 3). Maners does not specifically disclose that a button is used to select between these alternatives. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maners to use a selection button to authorize or reject an invoice, because this would provide a familiar and easily used interface element for an authorizer to indicate such a choice.

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Maners further discloses positive and negative "processing"; the "processing" is directly related to positive or negative approvals of invoices for purchased commodities, as cited. The system of Maners disclose commodities that do no flow through a receiving dock ("services" as indicated in the above rejection) and separates the invoices that are positive versus negative by indicating if a an invoice is posted or refused and therefore "marks" the transaction.

Maners teaches an invoice processing system including an invoice processing server providing a payment authorization signal to an accounting computer system to initiate processing payment of the invoice in response to determining the invoice is authorized for payment.-see Abstract and col. 9 lines 23-44. Furthermore, Maners discloses an authorizing agent utilizing a computer and interface to accept or reject the invoice by setting the invoice status to refused or authorized.-see col. 9 lines 23-52.

The Claims further recite limitation of a three-way match among invoice, purchase order and received goods. Maners does not specifically disclose this limitation. Procedures discloses this limitation pages 1-11, particularly page 1, underlined text and pages 3, 5, 8, and 10. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maners to include the three way matching disclosed by Procedures because this would have assured that goods ordered were indeed delivered per purchase order and approved by recipient.

Re Claim 10: Maners does not specifically disclose scheduled sending of payment acceptances to a backend procurement system. Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known to schedule financial data transfers for regular transmission. For example, batch processing was a familiar way to transfer data. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to perform such data transfer in Maners because this would provide timely, predictable workloads for the system. Furthermore, Maners discloses communication between the MicroEDI Server and with the computer system at a vendor site via a network server-see col. 3 line 40 to col. 5.

Re Claim 11: see the discussion of claim 10. Furthermore, Maners discloses posting of accepted invoices to the company

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accounts payable computer system for payment processing.-see col. 5 lines 40-53; col. 6 lines 48-67.

Re Claim 12: Maners does not specifically disclose notification of a confirmation notice at login. Official Notice is taken that it was old and well known to provide important information to a user upon first access to a data system. For example, the notification "You've got mail!" was used to draw a users attention to new incoming e-mail. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Maners to include such notification upon login because this would provide timely notification of a user of important information regarding payment authorization.

5. Claims 13, 17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maners in view of Procedures as applied to claim 1 above in further view of Furphy et al. (hereinafter Furphy, US Patent 6,882,983).

Re Claim 13: see the discussion of Claims 1 and 10. Furthermore, Furphy discloses a system of authorizing a payment of an invoice by comparing the invoice to a receipt.-see cols. 1 to 3; col. 15 lines 34-64 in particular comparing purchase order data, the invoice data and the receipt data. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Maners and Procedures to

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specifically include authorizing payment by comparing purchase order data with invoice data and receipt data as taught by Furphy in order to reduce redundancies in the discrepancy resolution process and reduce the unnecessary administrative infrastructure associated with the processing of invoices and purchase orders.

Re Claim 17: see the discussion of Claims 1 and 13 above and Maners further discloses a program storage device embodying instructions to perform the recited steps at Fig. 2, ele. 202 and related text. Furthermore, Maners teaches determining if an item for goods on said invoice is for a commodity item marked on said purchase order as receivable or non-receivable. -see col. 7 lines 25-col. 8 line 5 and cols. 1-2, Fig. 4 and related text. Maners teaches ("This purchase order information is considered part of the reference data 218 that is exchanged between the company accounting system 206 and the MicroEDI Database 214 via the local area network 204.) It is obvious that for the authorization for an invoice to be paid, and for the invoice to reflect the status as posted, incomplete, ready or refused, the information included in the purchase order is exchanged between the systems disclosed by Maners.

Re Claim 19: see the discussion of Claims 1 and 17.

Response to Arguments

6. Re claims 1,13,17,19: In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., process for generating receipts) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). The Examiner acknowledges that the preamble recites a method for generating a goods receipt for approving and paying an invoice, however, the body of the claim is missing the step of generating a goods receipt. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Re claim 11: In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the process of generating a receipt) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the

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specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Regarding the 112 rejection of claims 1, 13, 17 and 19 concerning "goods receipt", the applicant argues that generating a goods receipt is disclosed in the specification as "In the event that requestor 46 accepts the invoice, or authorizes payment, an automated goods received (move ticket) is generated back to SAP system 42 and payment made without further human intervention." Maners teaches an invoice processing system including an invoice processing server providing a payment authorization signal to an accounting computer system to initiate processing payment of the invoice in response to determining the invoice is authorized for payment.--see Abstract and col. 9 lines 23-44. Furthermore, Maners discloses an authorizing agent utilizing a computer and interface to accept or reject the invoice by setting the invoice status to refused or authorized.--see col. 9 lines 23-52. The Examiner is still unclear as to the true meaning of the term "goods receipt" in relation to the applicant's definition of "automated goods received (move ticket)" and how this definition overcomes the above disclosure in Maners.

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The remaining arguments with respect to claims 1, 10-13, 17, and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Elda Milef whose telephone number is (571)272-8124. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday 8:30 am to 4:30pm.

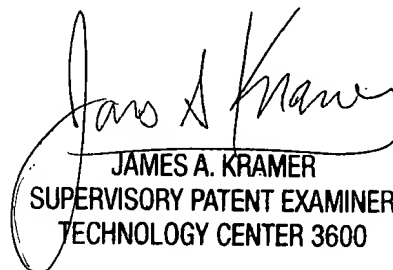
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Kramer can be reached on (571)272-6783. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Elda Milef
Examiner
Art Unit 3692



8/1/07
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